

Remarks

Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination on March 6, 2006. This Request was not improper. A Request for Continued Examination may be filed if prosecution in an application is closed. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a). Section 1.114(b) of 37 C.F.R. states:

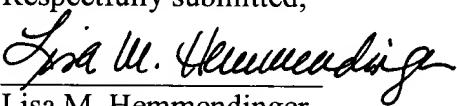
(b) Prosecution in an application is closed as used in this section means that the application is under appeal, or that the last Office action is a final action (§ 1.113), a notice of allowance (§ 1.311), or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The last office action in this application was a Final Office Action mailed February 4, 2006. Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on August 4, 2005. A Request for Continued Examination therefore is proper in this case for two reasons: (1) the application is under appeal; and (2) the last Office Action was final.

Dated: March 22, 2006

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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